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# OTTAWA LEGAL CLINICS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

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## STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Since our last newsletter in June, the project Steering Committee has continued to meet and work through the many issues related to our amalgamation plans. Our work slowed over the summer but picked up again in September.

## PROGRESS CONTINUES ON STAFFING, BY-LAWS, AND TRANSITION PLAN

### GETTING IT RIGHT FOR CLINIC STAFF

The key to continued excellent legal clinic services are our staff members. As the three legal clinics continue working towards amalgamation, it continues to be a priority to ensure a fair outcome for staff members and continued supports for them in their roles, with minimal disruption. Regular communication with our staff members about the ongoing planning also continues to be a priority.

### CRAFTING A NEW BY-LAW

The new Board of Directors of the amalgamated clinic will require a new organizational by-law to guide them. The Steering Committee has continued the hard work of drafting a proposed by-law, with guidance from legal counsel. Before a new bylaw comes into effect, it will have to be approved by the new Board of Directors and by the membership of the amalgamated clinic.

### DEVELOPING A TRANSITION PLAN

With an April, 2017 target date for amalgamation on the horizon, our project consultants have started working on a “transition plan,” meant to pull together in one document the work done over the past year and to lay out the plans, with recommendations, for implementing them.

### OUTREACH TO STAKEHOLDERS

Ottawa’s legal clinics work closely with community-based organizations and groups, government agencies and elected officials. The Steering Committee is preparing an information update and check-in for these stakeholders in the next few weeks. Our goal is to confirm that no disruption in services is anticipated as a result of our amalgamation plans; and that, in fact, we are expecting service improvements for our clients.

## INFORMATION UPDATE FOR THE THREE CLINICS’ MEMBERSHIP

### CLINIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The three Clinics’ AGMs are approaching in October:

- Community Legal Services Ottawa Centre (October 25)
- South Ottawa Community Legal Services (November 2)
- West End Legal Services (November 8)

A brief update and insights into next steps will be provided to the Membership at these AGMs.

To learn more about this process, please visit [www.ottawaclinics.ca](http://www.ottawaclinics.ca).

To contact us, please email [info@ottawaclinics.ca](mailto:info@ottawaclinics.ca).